Vol. VII. Numb. 97

THE OBSERVATOR.

Farther Remarks on the Addreſs of the Commons, of the 12th Inſtant, in Relation to her Majeſty's Forces in Savoy, Spain, *and Portugal, and her Navy in* Spain. *The Neceſſity of ſecuring the Peace of* Italy, *to enable the Emperor to give more effectual Aſſiſtance to King* Charles *and the Duke of* Savoy. *The Poſture of Affairs in* Portugal *fit to be conſider'd. Remarks on the Lord* Haverſham's *Speech on Wedneſday the 12th Inſtant, on the late intended Invaſion of* Scotland.

From Saturday, January 15. to Wednesday, January 19. 1709.

Obſ. WHAT have People got to talk of at *London* now, *Roger*, in the Want of ſo many foreign Mails?

Country-m. Some talk of the Votes of the Commons, Maſter, that you and I diſcours'd of laſt Day; ſome talk of the Speech of a Noble Peer in the Houſe of Lords, on the late intended Invaſion; and ſome talk of Connundrums.

Obſ. We will leave the laſt, *Roger*, to thoſe who delight in ſuch Matters. Pray tell me what has been done as to the Addreſſes of our Noble Patriots the Commons, for demanding an Account of the 500000 *l.* granted laſt Parliament, for the Augmentation of her Majeſty's Forces, to ſtrengthen the Duke of *Savoy*, to make good the Alliances with *Portugal*, and to recover the *Spaniſh* Monarchy, *&c.*?

Country-m. Why, Maſter, her Majeſty, God bleſs her, has been pleas'd to give Directions, that the ſeveral Accounts and Papers, mention'd in the Addreſſes of the Houſe, of the 12th Inſtant, in Relation to her Majeſty's Forces in *Savoy*, *Spain*, and *Portugal*, and her Navy in *Spain*, ſhall be lay'd before the Houſe.

Obſ. That's a new Proof of her Majeſty's Goodneſs and Wiſdom, *Roger*, and can't fail to rivet the Loyalty and Affections of her Subjects more and more, were it poſſible to raiſe them higher. Had her Majeſty's Predeceſſors been ſo happy and wiſe in their Conduct, it had not only ſav'd us Millions of Lives and Money, but prevented all the other Calamities that we have groan'd under for ſo many Years; for nothing can ſo much contribute to eſtabliſh a good Underſtanding in the Nation, as a good Harmony betwixt her Majeſty and her Parliament, and their going Hand in Hand to enquire into Abuſes, and redreſs them.

Country-m. That I think very plain, Maſter. The Hiſtories of former Times, which my Boy *Tom* reads to me now and then, inform us, that none of our Princes were ever happy that quarrell'd with their Parliaments, obſtructed their Enquiries into Abuſes, in order to redreſs 'em, or that entertain'd and protected Miniſters, whoſe Management was diſlik'd or ſuſpected by the Nation.

Obſ. I think truly, *Roger*, ſince the Recovery of the *Spaniſh* Monarchy, in order to keep a Ballance in *Europe*, and to preſerve our own Religion and Liberty from the Deſigns of the *French* King and the Pretender, was the chief Cauſe of our engaging in this War, 'tis highly neceſſary to enquire whether the Money and Blood that we ſpend in that noble Quarrel, be diſpos'd of to the beſt Advantage. It muſt be own'd, that the Duke of *Savoy* made a very good Uſe of his Share of the 500000 *l.* granted laſt Year; that he has ſecur'd a good Frontier for himſelf, and open'd a Paſſage into *Dauphine*, which I wiſh may be improv'd; but I am afraid, if Care be not taken effectually to ſecure the Peace of *Italy*, by putting it out of the Power of the *French* King to countenance the Malecontents in the Kingdom of *Naples*, and to form new Intrigues with the Court of *Rome*, and ſuch other Potentates in that Country, as envy the Emperor's Succeſs; that the Duke will not be able to make ſuch an Impreſſion upon *France* on that Side, as the Good of the common Cauſe ſeems to require; which may, if he do not, give the *French* an Opportunity to over-power King *Charles* in *Catalonia*, and reduce him to ſuch Streits, as it will not be eaſy to get him out of.

Country-m. Why, what would you propoſe to be done, Maſter? An't we Maſters of *Port Mahone*? And han't we ſent a Fleet to the *Straits*?

Obſ. 'Tis not for you and me to talk of propoſing, *Roger*; all that we can do, is, to wiſh well.

Country-m. Then what would you wiſh for, Maſter? I think, with your Leave, 'tis to as little Purpoſe for us to wiſh, except we could get *Fortunatus*'s Mantle; and then we ſhould have nothing to do, but to wiſh and have.

Obſ. I'll tell you in a few Words what I would wiſh for, *Roger*; a ſpeedy End of the War on that Side, becauſe I think 'twould haſten it to a Concluſion on this: But while the Accommodation with the Pope is ſuſpended, and *Sicily* continues in the Hands of the *French*, I can't ſee, that the Emperor can be in any Capacity either to aſſiſt his Brother King *Charles*, or the Duke of *Savoy*, as he ought to do; for ſo long as the Court of *Rome* is not brought to an Accommodation either by Force or Treaty, and that the Kingdom of *Naples* is not ſecur'd from Invaſions by the *French*, and their Partizans in *Sicily*, I don't underſtand how the Emperor can ſpare any of his Forces from *Italy*, or how the Duke of *Savoy* and King *Charles* can have Supplies of Men with ſo much Speed, and at ſo ſmall a Charge, from any where elſe.

Country-m. Why, Maſter, the publick News has told us a great while, that the Accommodation betwixt the Pope and the Emperor is as good as concluded; and that the *Sicilians* are ſo well affected to the Houſe of *Auſtria*, that the Appearance of a good Squadron, with a competent Land Force, would ſoon reduce *Sicily*. Then what's the Reaſon that this is delay'd? I hope there's no Body concern'd in the preſent War, that would manage it, as one of my Neighbours, a Country Gentleman, did his hunting of a Hare!

Obſ. How was that, *Roger*?

Country-m. He told me, Maſter, that if he kill'd the Hare to Day, he ſhould have nothing to hunt to Morrow. I hope none of our Allies have ſuch Generals or Miniſters about them, as would prolong the War for the Sake of their great Pay, or other Perquiſites; and for handling the Millions of Florins and Crowns that are annually rais'd to carry it on.

Obſ. I wiſh there were none ſuch in the World, *Roger*; but I hope the good Example of our Parliament, in enquiring into the Diſpoſal of our Money; and whether the Numbers of effective Men, anſwer the Pay and Eſtabliſhment, will put our Allies upon Enquiries of the like Nature; for I believe they have as good Reaſon to husband their Money, and to wiſh a ſpeedy Concluſion of the War, as we. What News do you hear from *Portugal*,

tugal, Roger? For I find we have lately had ſome *Lisbon* Mails.

Country-m. The chief News we have had from thence of late, Maſter, has been *Relacams dos Artificios do Fogo*, &c.

Obſ. What, do you talk Gibberiſh, *Roger?* I did not know that you underſtood that Language.

Country-m. I wiſh I had, Maſter; the Gibberiſh Letters about the *Scotch* Plot ſhould not have been ſo long a Secret: But I thought you Schollards had underſtood all Languages; 'tis *Portugueze*, which an honeſt Fellow told me in a Coffee-houſe, ſignify'd *Relations of artificial Fireworks, on Account of the King of* Portugal's *Marriage.*

Obſ. Very well, *Roger*, I am not aſham'd to own, that I underſtand nothing of *Portugueze*; but ſhall be very well ſatisfy'd, if others who have more Occaſion for it, and can make a better Uſe of it, do.

Country-m. What do you think, Maſter, that waggiſh Fellow ſaid to me, when I ask'd him the Meaning of thoſe Words?

Obſ. I'm no *Camiſar*, *Roger*, to know Secrets by Inſpiration. But if it be worth Hearing, ſpeak it out.

Country-m. He told me, Maſter, that for his Part, he could rather have wiſh'd to have heard of Bombs and Fireballs preparing there to ſinge the *French*mens A--ſes, and beat out their Brains; and that he did not underſtand the new Way of making War, which ſome of the late *Dutch* Prints, and the *Poſt-man*, talk'd of Yeſterday, in thoſe Parts of the World; to wit, a Treaty on foot betwixt the *Portugueze* and the *Spaniſh* Generals, not to moleſt the Peaſants on either Side, but to ſuffer them to go about their Husbandry, *&c.* without any Hinderance; and added, that if 'twere true, it look'd more like a Neutrality, than carrying on the War with Vigor.

Obſ. We muſt not be too credulous of ſuch Stories, *Roger.* The *Dutch* Prints are liable to Miſtakes, as well as our own. The King of *Portugal* being now ſo nearly related to the Houſe of *Auſtria*, is too much concern'd both in Intereſt and Affection, not to carry on the War with all the Vigor he can. However, ſince our Commons are upon the Enquiry, we have no Reaſon to doubt, but they will look into Performances on the Part of our Allies, as well as into the Diſpoſal of our own Money, and the Number of our Troops. We pay for a vigorous War, offenſive, as well as defenſive, and 'tis eaſy to come at the Knowledge of thoſe Facts, from our Generals and Miniſters in thoſe Parts; who, no Doubt, give an Account of all material Tranſactions to ſome Body here. But what's that Speech of a Noble Peer you talk'd of a while ago, *Roger?*

Country-m. 'Tis the Lord *Haverſham*'s Speech in the Houſe of Peers on *Wedneſday* laſt, Maſter, on the late intended Invaſion of *Scotland.*

Obſ. What does his Lordſhip ſay on that Subject, *Roger?* We formerly had ſome Speeches at *Tyburn* on the intended Invaſion from *La Hogue*; but it ſeems the Pretender's Friends are born under more lucky Stars, than thoſe of his ſuppos'd Father.

Country-m. I perceive, that if his Lordſhip had his Will, Maſter, we might probably have Speeches from other Places, as well as from *Tyburn*, upon the Subject; for he tells us, *Every Body is convinc'd by the inconſiderable Force, the ſmall Number of Ships and Troops the* French *King employ'd in the late Attempt upon us, that his chief Dependance was upon the Encouragement and Promiſes of Aſſiſtance he had from hence; yet notwithſtanding all our Enquiries, 'tis as great a Myſtery to this Day, as 'twas, who thoſe are that were concern'd in this black and unnatural Treaſon.* And this his Lordſhip thinks to be a great Encouragement for the *French* King to renew the Attempt, to ſee, *That notwithſtanding ſo many Friends he has among us, all the Methods we have hitherto taken, has ſignify'd ſo little to diſcover any of them; and that thoſe Methods have not been taken, that might perhaps have ſignify'd more towards a Diſcovery, and have been made Uſe of at other Times; he means Promiſes both of Pardon and Reward.*

Obſ. I wiſh there were no Truth in what his Lordſhip ſays, *Roger.* But does he hint at any ſort of Perſons whom there's Reaſon to ſuſpect?

Country-m. His Lordſhip thinks there has been a Miſtake, *Roger*, as to the Characters of the Perſons that ſome would have to be ſuſpected; but, he ſays, he would not be miſunderſtood, as if he did not think ſome of all Perſwaſions may be faulty; for he knows, that even among the Apoſtles themſelves, *He that bore the Bag, prov'd the Traytor.*

Obſ. What does his Lordſhip propoſe to be done, *Roger*, in order to come at the Bottom of that Invaſion?

Country-m. He propoſes an Enquiry into it, Maſter, for he ſays our very Being it ſelf, the Security of the Nation, and the Safety of her Majeſty, are highly concern'd in it.

Obſ. You and I have always been of that Opinion, *Roger.* But what Method of Enquiry does his Lordſhip adviſe to?

Country-m. He made a Motion, That her Majeſty would be pleas'd to order, that there may be lay'd before the Houſe, *At what Time her Majeſty receiv'd the firſt Account of the intended Invaſion; what Orders were thereupon iſſu'd into* Scotland, *with Relation either to the Forces or Garriſons; what was the Number of regular Troops and Forces there at the Time of this Intelligence; what was the State of the Garriſons there at that Time; what Augmentation was made, or Forces ſent thither, from the Time of the Intelligence, to the Time of the Invaſion; what Orders has been given with Relation to the Garriſons; and when, both before and ſince the Invaſion, from the Time of the firſt Intelligence.* To which Motion, the Houſe agreed, Maſter.

Obſ. God bleſs 'em, *Roger.* Since the Noble Houſe of Peers have agreed to the Enquiry, we have Reaſon to hope for a Diſcovery, and perhaps, if our Superiors think fit, it may not yet be unſeaſonable to make Uſe both of Promiſes of Pardon and Reward, in order to come at the Bottom of the Matter; for paying Money out of the Bag, may help to diſcover Traytors, as well as miſapplying it to his own covetous Purpoſes, occaſion'd the Treachery of that execrable Traytor his Lordſhip mention'd. But more of this Subject in our next *Roger.*

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